

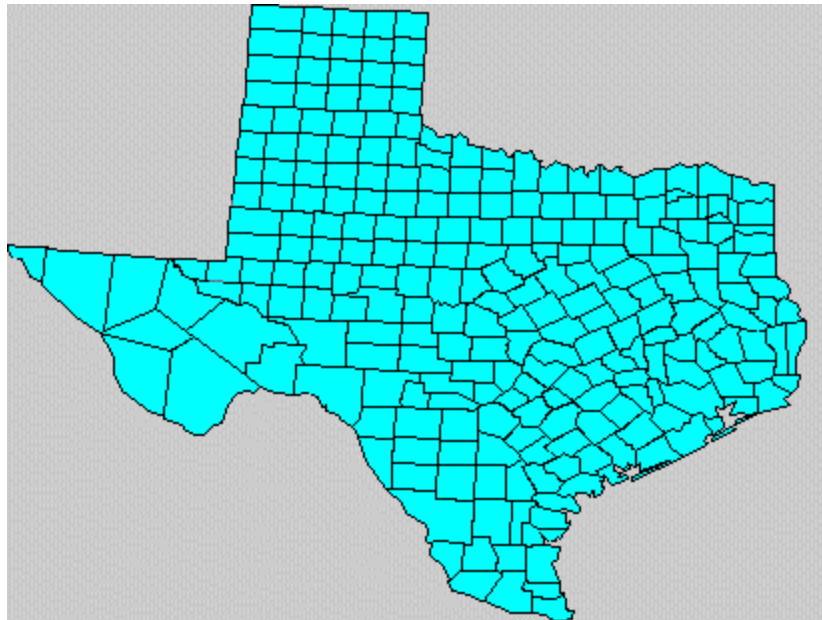
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Texas

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Texas

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 19,760,000 (1998 estimate), 16,986,000 (1990 census)
- Gender: 49.3% male, 50.7% female
- Age: 28.6% under 18 years old, 10.1% 65 years and older
- Race/Ethnicity: 75.2% white, 11.9% black, .4% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut, 1.8% Asian or Pacific Islander, 25.5% Hispanic Origin
- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level: 15.9%

Politics²

- Governor: George W. Bush
- Attorney General: John Cornyn
- U.S. Senate: Kay Bailey Hutchison, Phil Gramm
- U.S. Representatives: Silvestre Reyes, Jim Turner, Sam Johnson, Ralph Hall, William Thornberry, Joe Barton, Bill Archer, Kevin Brady, Charlie Gonzalez, Lamar Smith, Ron Paul, Chet Edwards, Nick Lampson, Gene Green, Martin Frost, Dick Amey, Tom DeLay, Ken Bentsen, Henry Bonilla, Kay Granger, Lloyd Doggett, Pete Sessions, Max Sandlin Eddie Johnson, Ruben Hinojosa, Charles Stenholm, Larry Combest, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Solomon Ortiz
- Houston HIDTA Director: Stan Furse
- North Texas HIDTA Director: David H. Israelson
- South Texas HIDTA Director: Vern Parker
- West Texas HIDTA Director: Travis Kuykendall

Programs/Initiatives

- The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has designated four High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) in the State of Texas. The West and South Texas HIDTA's are part of the Southwest Border HIDTA and were both designated in 1990. The Houston HIDTA was designated in 1990, and the North Texas HIDTA is headquartered in Dallas and was designated in 1998.³
- In Texas during FY 1999 ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded 4 community coalitions funding under the Drug Free Community Support Program. The grants ranged from \$96,000 to \$100,000. In FY 1998 5 community coalitions in Texas were awarded funding under the Drug Free Community Support Program. The programs are:
The Georgetown Project: The project targets youth in Georgetown, a rural community approximately 30 miles north of Austin. It will work to provide safe and drug-free alternatives to middle school youth that offer opportunities for creative self-expression, positive risk taking, and meaningful participation in service to others. The project will also work to build social, problem solving and relationship skills that promote a climate of positive peer pressure toward avoidance of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission: The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1970 to resolve regional problems through cooperation and coordinated action. In 1972, the Commission created a Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Committee to address substance abuse problems among area youth and families. The advisory committee's project, called B.E.A.R.S. (Being Educated on Addictions and Resistance Skills), is a prevention service for youth with a family history of chemical dependency and for youth living in other chronic stress situations that would place them at high risk for substance abuse. The program seeks to reduce youth risk of substance abuse by teaching intervention strategies for personal and social development, offering healthy alternatives to harmful behaviors and improving young people's coping and resistance skills.

Tarrant County Challenge, Inc.: This nonprofit coalition aims to eliminate substance abuse in Tarrant County. Specifically, this grant will help the coalition achieve three primary goals: create neighborhood and civil forums to address factors that put youth at risk for substance abuse; develop a Red Ribbon Campaign to disseminate information about effective drug use reduction strategies; and develop and support prevention management information systems, treatment centers, and the networking of community representatives. The effectiveness of the community coalition's reduction initiatives in neighboring communities may also be assessed.

Longview Drug Task Force: The task force of this rural city proposes a number of goals for substance abuse prevention, primarily focusing on community support for youth development. Through promoting and maintaining a partnership between Longview community members and Longview community policing officers, the task force plans to empower youth to assume significant roles in community life. Youth involvement is supplemented with a community focus on efforts to curtail drug and alcohol use. A website will be created to mark achievements in these goals as they occur.

San Antonio Fighting Back, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County: Targeting two high schools in east and southeast San Antonio, this community coalition works to reduce illegal drug use by 10 percent among high school and 5 percent among middle school youth. Similarly, the coalition supports efforts to reduce drug-related crime by 10 percent in youth and adults. In addition to prevention activities, the coalition advocates treatment centers and promotes an increase in service slots for substance-abusing juveniles and their adult family members by 25 percent. This grant will expand an established mentors program, enhance community-policing efforts, and continue the establishment of identification and treatment programs.⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Arrests for drug offenses rose 3.1% from 98,369 in 1997 to 101,430 in 1998. The total number of arrests dropped 2.2% between 1997 and 1998.⁵

Arrests in Texas 1997-1998

Offense	1998	1997	Percent Change
Murder	912	1,042	-12.5%
Aggravated Assault	22,726	24,356	-6.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	9,896	10,404	-4.9%
DUI	84,570	85,174	-0.7%
Drunkenness	166,604	177,897	-6.3%
Drug Possession	90,684	88,947	+2.0%
Drug Sale and Manufacturing	10,746	9,422	+14.1%
Total Drug Offenses	101,430	98,369	+3.1%
Weapons; Carrying-Possessing	12,795	14,236	-10.1%
State Total Arrests	1,099,094	1,124,168	-2.2%

- The total number of index crimes decreased 5.2% in Texas from 1997 to 1998. The number of violent crimes decreased 4.7% from 117,087 in 1997 to 111,577 in 1998. The number of property crime also decreased 5.2% in the same time span. Three Texas law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty during 1998 and 5,039 officers were assaulted for the same time period.⁶
- Four areas in Texas participate in the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM) in 1998: Dallas, Houston, Laredo, and San Antonio.⁷

Percent of Dallas Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	24.2	30.0	36.0	20.0	2.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	54.0	50.0
Property	29.5	26.5	42.6	25.3	3.7	4.8	4.5	0.0	62.7	49.4
Drug	41.0	28.0	62.8	36.0	2.6	4.0	2.6	0.0	89.7	52.0
Prostitution	40.0	73.3	40.0	20.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	60.0	80.0
Other	25.0	24.3	39.8	21.6	4.5	4.1	4.5	0.0	59.1	40.5
Total	29.0	29.5	43.1	24.2	3.3	4.0	3.5	0.0	63.4	48.9

Percent of Houston Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	27.3	41.9	33.3	25.8	0.0	0.0	5.1	6.5	50.5	58.1
Property	33.1	33.3	38.7	19.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	1.6	61.3	47.6
Drug	64.8	76.0	35.2	12.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	4.0	81.3	78.0
Prostitution	0.0	66.7	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.8
Other	30.3	27.9	35.5	21.5	0.4	0.0	4.8	1.4	55.4	45.2
Total	35.8	37.3	35.8	20.1	0.2	0.0	5.7	2.1	59.9	51.7

Percent of Laredo Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	25.0	0.0	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	54.2	0.0
Property	52.0	28.6	52.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	72.0	28.6
Drug	41.7	75.0	50.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	75.0
Prostitution	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other	36.0	0.0	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	0.0
Total	37.1	33.3	39.3	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	57.3	33.3

Percent of San Antonio Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	16.6	20.0	27.0	20.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.3	40.0
Property	33.0	18.9	38.9	17.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.5	37.7
Drug	37.7	31.8	66.9	45.5	5.4	18.2	0.0	0.0	87.7	86.4
Prostitution	50.0	75.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	75.0
Other	24.9	18.0	39.6	14.1	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.0	50.8	31.6
Total	27.0	20.0	41.1	17.5	2.0	1.7	0.1	0.0	56.0	37.8

Drugs⁸

➤ Cocaine/Crack

The number of people dying from a cocaine overdose in Texas rose from 338 in 1997 to 374 in 1998. The average age of cocaine overdose decedents in 1998 was 36.9 and the majority were male (69%). Most of the decedents were white (46%) followed by African Americans (30%) and Hispanics (21%). In the Dallas area the rate (per 100,000) of cocaine-related emergency room mentions increased from 74 in 1997 to 106 in 1998. The highest rates of emergency room mentions in 1998 were found in the 26-34 and the 18-25 age groups (192 for both groups) and among males (64.1). In Texas during 1998 there were 11,692 cocaine (crack and powder) treatment admissions to Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) funded facilities. Cocaine admissions accounted for 33.8% of all admissions. Crack alone accounted for 24.6% of all treatment admissions in 1998. The average age of those admitted for crack was 34.2 and 30.7 for powder cocaine. The majority of those admitted for treatment for crack were African American (54.5%) followed by whites (34.9%) and Hispanics (9.7%). The majority of those admitted for powder cocaine were white (54.2%) followed by Hispanic (37.3%) and African Americans (7.4%). Preliminary data for January through September of 1999 show that there were 10,158 cocaine treatment admissions the majority of which are from crack (7,738 of the total).

In the Houston area the price of powder cocaine is \$9,500-\$14,000 per kilogram wholesale. The retail price in the Houston area is \$14,000 per kilogram. The price of a gram of powder cocaine ranges from \$50-\$275 and the price of an ounce of crack goes for \$500-\$1,200. A rock of crack cocaine costs between \$10 and \$20.

➤ Heroin

The number of death due to heroin overdoses in Texas increased from 333 in 1997 to 374 in 1998. Most of the decedents were white (55%) followed by Hispanics (32%) and African Americans (12%). The rate (per 100,000) of heroin emergency department mentions in Dallas remained the same between 1997 and 1998 at 21. The highest rate of mentions was in the 18-25 age group (58) and among males (28). There were a total of 4,528 admissions for heroin treatment to TCADA funded facilities during 1998 and accounted for 13.1% of all admissions. The average age of those admitted for treatment of heroin was 35.5 and most were males (65.5%). The majority of those admitted were white (45.1%) or Hispanic (42.3%) followed by African American (11.3%). Preliminary data for January through September of 1999 show 3,824 heroin treatment admissions in Texas.

Most of the heroin available in Texas is black tar or, to a lesser degree, Mexican brown. Black tar sells for \$10 per capsule and \$120-\$300 per gram. Mexican brown heroin sells for \$1,000-\$1,200 per ounce. The purity of heroin in the Dallas area was 11.8% and the purity in Houston was 34.8%.

➤ Marijuana

The rate (per 100,000) of marijuana related emergency department mentions in Dallas rose from 38 in 1997 to 62 in 1998. The highest rate of marijuana mentions was with the 18-25 age group (171) and among males (85).

There was a total of 3,057 marijuana/hashish treatment admissions to TCADA funded facilities during 1998 this accounted for 8.8% of total admissions. The average age of those admitted for marijuana treatment was 27.2 and 68.3% were male. The majority of marijuana admissions were white (50.6%) followed by African Americans (27.1%) and Hispanics (21.3%).

Marijuana is widely available throughout Texas and costs \$500-\$850 per whole sale pound and \$35-\$60 per ounce. A pound of marijuana costs \$400-\$700 in the northern part of the state.

➤ Methamphetamine

The number of methamphetamine/amphetamine related deaths in Texas increased from 17 in 1997 to 20 in 1998. In 1998 there was a total of 1,608 amphetamine (includes methamphetamine) treatment admissions to TCADA funded facilities in Texas which accounted for 4.7% of all admissions. The average of the amphetamine admissions was 30.3 and 48.8% were male. The majority of those admitted for amphetamines were white (92.7%) followed by Hispanics (3.9%) and African Americans (1.6%). Preliminary data for January-September of 1999 indicate 1,099 stimulant (including methamphetamine) related treatment admissions.

The price of methamphetamine is \$4,400-\$13,000 per pound. An ounce of methamphetamine is sold for \$500-\$1,400 and a gram costs \$100-\$125.

➤ Other Drugs

There were a total of 100 exposures to Rohypnol reported to the Texas Poison Control Network (TPCN) during 1998. From January through September of 1999 there were 68. The majority of those exposed were between the ages of 10 to 19 (47%).

There were 116 exposures to GHB reported to TCPN in 1998 and 114 in January through September of 1999. The majority of those exposed were between the ages of 20 and 29 (45%).

- In Dallas during the first three-quarters of 1999 the marijuana was the most common drug among male arrestees and cocaine was the most common drug among female arrestees.

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, 1999*⁸

Sites/Gender	Cocaine	Opiates	Marijuana	Ampheta-mines
Dallas Males	32%	5.0%	41%	4%
Houston Males	36	4.7	39	0
Laredo Males	42	9.7	34	1
San Antonio Males	24	10.0	35	3
San Antonio Male Juveniles	9	3.0	55	3
Dallas Females	41	6.0	27	6
Houston Females	22	6.0	23	1
Laredo Females	24	2.0	11	3
San Antonio Females	19	11.0	17	2
San Antonio Female Juveniles	9	4.0	23	1

*First 3 Quarters of 1999

Juveniles

- In 1998 a survey of Middle and High School Students in Texas found that 36.1% of them had tried an illicit drug at least once and 17.0% had used an illicit drug in the past month.⁹

Drug Use by 7th-12th graders in Texas, 1998

Drug Type	Ever Used	Past Month
Any Illicit Drug	36.1%	17.0%
Marijuana	34.5%	15.2%
Cocaine/Crack	9.3%	3.5%
Hallucinogens	7.3%	2.5%
Rohypnol	6.7%	6.7%
Steroids	2.1%	2.1%
Ecstasy	4.5%	4.5%
Heroin	2.4%	2.4%
Inhalants	22.0%	8.2%

- In 1998 54.9% of male juvenile arrestees tested positive in San Antonio for drugs at the time of their arrest.⁷

Percent of Juvenile Male Arrestees
Testing Positive for Drugs, San Antonio 1998

Offense	Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth	Any Drug
Violent	5.9	29.4	0.0	38.2
Property	9.5	39.0	0.0	45.7
Drug	10.3	70.5	1.3	75.6
Other	5.2	50.0	0.0	53.4
Total	8.4	49.1	0.4	54.9

Trafficking and Seizures

- In Texas there were a total of 834,673 plants eradicated during 1998 by the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication Program.¹⁰

1998 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, Texas

OUTDOOR	Plots Eradicated	161
	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	26,274
	Ditchweed Eradicated	806,842
INDOOR	Grows Seized	25
	Plants Eradicated	1,557
TOTAL	Total Plants Eradicated	834,673
	Number Of Arrests	30
	Weapons Seized	17
	Assets Seized (Value)	\$289,680

- Drug Trends by Region¹¹

The Plains

This region has 85 counties and extends from the Mexican border to the panhandle and there are 6 drug task forces based in this region. The majority of this region is rural which provides remote locations for drug smuggling organizations to operate. An increase in methamphetamine trafficking is reported in this area.

The Metroplex

This region contains 25 counties and 9 drug task forces. There are both urban and rural cities and counties including the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The region has several major inter and intra state highways that run through it and contribute to drug trafficking through and to the area. Methamphetamine trafficking and production has increased throughout this region.

East Texas

This region contain 24 counties and 6 drug task forces. This region is a vast piney forest that harbors drug trafficking, marijuana grows, and clandestine labs. This vast

region borders on Louisiana and Arkansas and many interstate highways run through that are conducive to drug trafficking.

The Gulf Coast

This region has 19 counties and 6 drug task forces. The region has 426 mile coastal border with desolate coastline, clandestine airfields, and the largest intercoastal waterway in the U.S., as a result it is one of the largest drug transshipment and smuggling corridors. A large portion of the illegal narcotics destined the northern parts of the U.S. pass through this region.

The Border

This region is comprised of 23 counties that lie along the U.S. and Mexican border. There are 8 drug task forces operating in this area. There are many major ports of entry from Mexico to the U.S. and vice versa. The region's geography provides ideal conditions for smugglers to bring illicit drugs in to the U.S. from Mexico.

The Central Corridor

This region consists of 46 counties with 11 task forces and includes the metropolitan areas of San Antonio and Austin. There is a wide range of drugs used in this area, and law enforcement especially report a major problem with crack cocaine.

Courts¹²

- In Texas during FY 1998 there were 7,784 Federal defendants, 45.4% of them were charged with a drug related crime. The most common charge was drug trafficking accounting 44.3% of all defendants. The most common drugs involved were marijuana (55.5%), powder cocaine (17%), crack cocaine (15.3%), heroin (5.1%), and methamphetamine (4.9%).

Corrections

- The number of inmates in Texas under Federal or State jurisdiction increased 3% from 140,351 in 1997 to 144,510 in 1998¹³. As of January 1, 1997 there were 6,040 prisoners in drug treatment programs in Texas prisons. In 1996 the Texas Department of Corrections completed 335 drug tests on prisoners and currently use 10 dogs to detect drugs in its facilities.¹⁴

Treatment⁸

- There were a total of 34,573 adult admissions to TCADA funded treatment facilities during 1998. The most common drug was alcohol, which accounted for 36.2% of all admissions followed by crack cocaine (24.6%), and heroin (13.1%).

Adult Treatment Admissions, 1998

Drug Type	Total Admissions	Percent of all Admissions
All Drugs	34,573	100.0%
Heroin	4,528	13.1%
Alcohol	12,524	36.2%
Amphetamines	1,608	4.7%
Powder Cocaine	3,194	9.2%
Marijuana/hashish	3,057	8.8%
Inhalants	57	0.2%
Crack	8,498	24.6%

- There were a total of 4,504 youth admissions to TCADA funded treatment facilities during 1998. The most common drug was marijuana, which accounted for 71.6% of all admissions.

Youth Treatment Admissions, 1998

Drug Type	Total Admissions	Percent of all Admissions
All Drugs	4,504	100.0%
Heroin	83	1.8%
Alcohol	479	10.6%
Amphetamines	69	1.5%
Powder Cocaine	323	7.2%
Marijuana/hashish	3,223	71.6%
Inhalants	120	2.7%
Crack	97	2.2%

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Texas Web site: <http://www.texas.gov/>

³ ONDCP HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

⁴ ONDCP Drug Free Communities Web Section:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree.html>

⁵ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas: 1998, Annual Report of the 1998 UCR Data Collection*, 1999

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999

⁸ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *Substance Abuse Trends in Texas*, December 1999

⁹ Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *1998 Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students: Grades 7-12*, February 1999

¹⁰ Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistical Report*, March 1999

¹¹ State of Texas, *Multi-Year Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control*, 1997

¹² United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov>

¹³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1998*, July 1998

¹⁴ Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders*, October 1998

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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